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Tribal members to vote again on Kenosha Project

Special Election calls for Mandatory Registration of voters

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh-Aragon
MNN Editor

KESHENA—Menominee Tribal members will once again be asked to vote on a referendum pertaining to the proposed Menominee Indian casino at Kenosha or 'Paradise Key' which supporters of the project

have named it.

A special Secretarial Election will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 1999.

This will be the second time tribal members will be going to the polls to vote on the project. The measure was rejected 387-335 back in January. At the time, opponents of the amendment felt the tribe would be giving up too much and that not enough input from tribal members was given. However, tribal members who were once divided over the constitutional amendment came to a mutual agreement after

two days of discussion at a special General Council in mid-February.

Sylvia Wilber and former tribal judge Sarah Skubitz opponents of the original amendment, were satisfied with the revised amendment, which they helped draft. "We wanted assurance that Menominees are involved and (the Kenosha casino) will benefit the Menominee people," commented Wilber after the talks were over. Apesanahkwat called the

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Easter egg hunt



The annual Easter egg hunt drew hundreds of young treasure seekers to the Menominee fairgrounds in Keshena. Above, the Easter bunny hands out treats. At right, Jaryd Wilber displays his basket of goodies. The event was sponsored by Menominee Rec. Dept., JOM, and Woodland Boys & Girls Club.

MNN photo/Mike Wilber



Building healthy communities is main focus of upcoming workshop

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh-Aragon
MNN Editor

Improving the quality of life amongst our people and the generations to come was the impetus of a union between four tribes.

Representatives from the Menominee, Oneida, Stockbridge-Munsee and Potawatomi communities banded together forming the "Four Winds Coalition" in an effort to proactively address gang related issues and gang violence in native communities.

As a result of this unique union, the group was able to acquire the services of Dream Weavers Ltd., an organization that provides services ranging from youth and family campouts, school trainings, mediation skills, community action and gang prevention/implementation strategies.

Wauneta Lone Wolf, an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Nation from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, is the main spokesperson.



Contributed photo
Wauneta Lone Wolf

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Menominee Nation to celebrate return of Sturgeon

KESHENA, WI – The Menominee Nation will celebrate the return of the Sturgeon with a feast and ceremonies on Saturday, April 17, 1999 – 11:00 a.m. at the Menominee Tribal School located in Neopit, Wisconsin.

The Department of Natural Resources has agreed to provide the Menominee Nation with Sturgeon for this ceremonial feast and Spiritual event. The Sturgeon will be delivered to Keshena Falls, the traditional spawning grounds of the Sturgeon, on April 13th at 1:00 p.m. where ceremonial prayers, tobacco offerings and honor songs will be performed in honor of the Sturgeon and their return to the Menominee Reservation.

The centuries old spring migra-

tion of the Lake Winnebago Sturgeon to Keshena Falls was halted when dams were built on the Wolf River near Shawano in the late 1800's. Prior to the dams being built, the Menominee would wait for the Sturgeon to return to replenish their food supplies after long winter months. Ceremonies and dancing would follow the first days catch of Sturgeon and the significance of the Sturgeon to the Menominee would be eloquently orated and celebrated with a feast. The creation story of the Menominee people mentions the Sturgeon and its spiritual significance to the Menominee people as historian and keeper of the Wild Rice and as

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DREAMWEAVERS:

son. Lone Wolf and her staff have been recognized nationally for their highly motivational and energized trainings.

Her staff consists mainly of Native youth ex-gang members who have turned their lives around, and who now promote peace. They are referred to as the 'Peace Maker Crew'. The group travels nationwide providing services for the National Crime Prevention Council, Tribal Strategies Against Violence and Department of Justice.

Lone Wolf has more than 20 years of experience having worked in the field with Native Americans involved in gangs throughout the country. She has earned a Bachelor of arts degree (B. A.) in Mass Communications, and is a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, (C.A.D.C.) Level III.

She has received numerous awards for her achievements. She was recognized by the YWCA 'Tribute to Women of the Year' in 1995, the National Girl Scouts World Awards 'World of Well Being' in 1997, and recently received the 'Youth Entrepreneurship of the Year' Award during the 'RES '99 Summit' held March 8-12 in Phoenix, Arizona to name a few.

She is an experienced TV & Radio personality, as well as a published author. She was honored with the name of Wa'Kiya Lu'ta Win (Red Thunder Woman) to assist her on the healing path in bridging two worlds together to create a balance for humankind. She started a National Native American Gang Prevention Campaign in 1996 - marketing gang prevention logos and slogans on t-shirts, posters, baseball caps, buttons, and bumper stickers to bring an awareness to violence in Native communities. Despite the fact that she is quite busy, Lone Wolf manages to balance life harmoniously as well as spiritually.

The group is scheduled to conduct a two day presentation on the Menominee reservation which will begin on Friday, April 23, 1999. Day one of the workshops will be held at the Menominee Tribal School with all workshops designed for adults and youth. Friday evening, a rally entitled 'United To Heal', will begin at the Veteran's Park in downtown Keshena at 6:30 p.m.

The seminar will continue on Saturday, April 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Neopit Intermediate School with a Parent Power Workshop. Lone Wolf will be the keynote speaker. There will also be a powwow beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Menominee Tribal School with a potluck being held from 4-6 p.m. The powwow will continue from 6-9 p.m.

Separate workshops will be held in Oneida, Potawatomi and Stockbridge communities. Future projects include a book on Native gangs in Indian Country which will include their profiles, stories and poetry. She is in the process of raising funds to film a video documentary on Gang Violence with a target date of April 19, 1999 during their 14-day tour in Wisconsin.

ELECTION:

amended agreement a community effort. "We in government don't have all the answers. Most often answers come from the community."

Self-Determination Officer, Thomas Buckanaga, has been appointed Chairman of the Election Board. He has a responsibility to ensure that the secretarial election is conducted pursuant to regulations in Title 25, CFR, Part 81. The Secretarial Election will permit qualified voters of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin to adopt or reject the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

Tribal members are urged to remember that this Secretarial Election is not like a tribal election for electing legislators. The Secretarial Election is authorized and conducted by the Secretary of the Interior when a tribal constitution is changed.

An informational packet containing all the pertinent information was sent recently (March 26) to all enrolled members 18 years and older. Only adult members 18 years or older on the date of the election and who have registered to vote in this secretarial election shall be entitled to vote on the proposed amendment.

Non-resident adult members may request to vote by absentee ballot. Also, any eligible registered voter who will be unable to vote at the polling place due to temporary absence from the reservation, illness, or physical disability, may request to vote by absentee. A request form was included in the packet. All registration forms must be received by the Election Board by 4:00 p.m. on April 19, 1999, to be considered valid. Once the voter registration period has passed, a list will be prepared of all members who registered to vote.

The vote will require a 30% turnout of those registered to vote. The voters list will be published twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election. The 20 day period is required so the Voters List can be published before the date of the election. You will not be eligible to vote if your name is not on the voter registration list.

The election is necessary for the Tribe to make plans for an off-reservation gaming project in Kenosha. If approved, the amendment would give the green light to tribal leaders to continue with the \$200 million project. The polls will be open at the Tribal Office Headquarters building from 8:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. on May 11, 1999.

Menominee tribal members are asked to contact the Menominee Secretarial Election Board at (715) 799-5220 or the Minneapolis Area Office, Branch of Tribal Operations at (612) 373-1000, ext. 1125, or Mr. Buckanaga at (218) 751-2011, ext. 404 if you have any further questions.

STURGEON:

a Menominee clan symbol. Menominee Tribal Elders have also identified the Sturgeon as being a source of traditional medicine.

The ceremonial feast and celebration will include a traditional opening by a Menominee elder, a welcome from the Menominee Tribal Chairman, Apesanahkwat and speeches from various Menominee tribal members who will speak of the sturgeon and it's traditional and spiritual significance to the Menominee people.

The feast will consist of baked and smoked Sturgeon with wild rice, maple sugar, and other Menominee traditional foods. Menominee traditional male dancers will perform the 'Ancient Menominee Fish Dance' to honor the return of the Sturgeon and the Menominee female dancers will perform the Swan Dance and other traditional Menominee dances will be performed at this year's celebration.

This will be the seventh year the Menominee Nation will be celebrating the return of the Sturgeon to their rightful home on the Menominee Indian Reservation. This year's sturgeon feast and celebration will be in memory of Louis Hawpetoss who was instrumental in reviving the ceremony. Everyone is welcome to attend this Menominee traditional celebration.

The Menominee Historic Preservation Department is coordinating this event.